

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 MED-05 OES-09
PA-01 CA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-04
FDRE-00 ICA-11 /101 W
-----003689 291354Z /43

R 291230Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7369
INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI POUCH
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUJUMBURA 1030

AID FOR OFDA

HEW FOR PHS CDC ATLANTA

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEDR, SWEL, TBIO, BY
SUBJ: CHOLERA: BURUNDI

REF: STATE 214119

1. BEARING IN MIND THAT WE DO NOT HAVE A CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND THAT WE DEPEND FOR OUR INFORMATION ON OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS, PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF THE MINISTRY AND INFORMATION PROVIDED BY FRIENDLY EMBASSIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERS WHOSE PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL PERSONNEL HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION, ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL ARE, BO BE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE AS FOLLOWS:

2. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

(A) Q. WHAT KIND OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES HAS MINISTRY OF HEALTH TAKEN, IF ANY?
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ANS. - STARTING MAY 13 IN ANTICIPATION OF SPREAD OF INFECTION FROM TANZANIA THE GOVERNMENT OF BURUNDI (GOB) SET UP A NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST CHOLERA TO DETERMINE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AND MEDICATIONS AND SUPPLIES TO BE PROVIDED. IT ALSO SET UP A SUPPLY COMMITTEE TO ORDER AND DISTRIBUTE MEDICATIONS AND SUPPLIES AND ESTABLISHED A SPECIAL BUDGET OF 35,000,000 BURUNDI

FRANCS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

- IT PROVIDED FOR ADMINISTRATION OF FANASIL IN TABLETS TO TRAVELERS ARRIVING BY AIR, ROAD OR LAKE FROM INFECTED ZONES.
- IT CALLED ON ARMY AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS TO IMPEDE CLANDESTINE LAKE TRAFFIC, AND IN THIS CONNECTION BANNED ALL FISHING FOR A WHILE.
- IT CONDUCTED A RADIO AND PRESS CAMPAIGN TO ALERT POPULATION TO DANGERS OF INFECTION.
- IT ESTABLISHED RESERVES OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES IN 30 DISPENSARIES, 7 OUTLYING HOSPITALS AND 4 REGIONAL HOSPITALS.
- IT ESTABLISHED CENTRAL RESERVES AT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH. EACH DISPENSARY WAS TO BE SUPPLIED WITH MATERIAL SUFFICIENT TO HANDLE 15 EMERGENCY CASES, EACH OUTLYING HOSPITAL SUFFICIENT FOR 140 CASES AND EACH REGIONAL HOSPITAL SUPPLIES FOR 1000 CASES.
- A MOBILE TEAM WAS ESTABLISHED CONSISTING OF A PHYSICIAN, A MEDICAL TECHNICIAN, A SANITARY ASSISTANT, A LABORATORY TECHNICIAN AND A CAR WITH DRIVER. THIS TEAM WAS ASSIGNED TO VISIT DISPENSARIES, OUTLYING HOSPITALS AND COMMUNAL ADMINISTRATIONS TO WHICH DISPENSARIES AND HOSPITALS WERE ATTACHED TO EXPLAIN MEASURES TO BE TAKEN.
- A SECOND TEAM COMPOSED OF A PHYSICIAN, A MEDICAL TECHNICIAN, 2 SANITARY ASSISTANTS, A LABORATORY TECHNICIAN AND TWO CARS WITH DRIVERS WAS TO BE AVAILABLE AT BUJUMBURA TO HANDLE THE FIRST CASE REPORTED.
- THE FIRST MOBILE TEAM WAS INSTRUCTED TO CHECK MATERIAL EXISTING IN DISPENSARIES, INSTRUCT NURSES ON TREATMENT AND REPORTING, INSTRUCT

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ON STOCKPILING OF SPECIAL SUPPLIES. IT WAS ALSO TO CONTACT DOCTORS IN HOSPITALS FOR STOCKPILING AND PREPARATION OF MEDICAL INTERVENTION TEAMS. IT WAS TOLD TO ARRANGE WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SPECIAL BEDS, 15 PER DISPENSARY, 35 PER HOSPITAL. IT WAS TO VERIFY EXISTENCE OF LATRINES AND PITS FOR GARBAGE DISPOSAL. IT WAS TO STRENGTHEN HYGIENIC PRECAUTIONS AT MARKETS, RESTAURANTS AND DRINK STANDS. IT WAS TO CONTACT LEADERS OF "COLLECTIVES" (LOWEST ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL) TO EXPLAIN NECESSARY INDIVIDUAL HYGIENE MEASURES.

IT WAS ALSO TO WATCH FOR ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSINGS AND LIST AND PROTECT FRESH WATER SPRINGS.

- PEOPLE WERE TO BE GIVEN FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS:

- BOIL OR DISINFECT DRINKING WATER
- EAT COOKED FOOD ONLY
- WASH HANDS BEFORE EATING
- BUILD AND USE LATRINES
- CLEAN AND COVER LATRINES
- BURN DRY GARBAGE
- BURY WET GARBAGE

- CLEAR AND SWEEP PLOTS OF LAND
- PROTECT FOOD FROM FLIES
- WASH DISHES WELL AND PROTECT THEM FROM FLIES
- BURY CHILDRENS' STOOLS AND WASH HANDS WITH SOAP

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CDC ATLANTA.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUJUMBURA 1030

(B) Q. HOW INVOLVED IN CASE CONTROL IS MOH?

ANS. MOH DISTRIBUTED FORMS TO BE COMPLETED ON EACH CASE INCLUDING HISTORY OF RECENT TRAVEL, FAMILY MEMBERS, VISITORS, CONDITION OF PATIENT, MEASURES TAKEN AND MATERIALS NEEDED FOR TREATMENT. ALSO ISSUED WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT BY PERFUSION, ORAL REHYDRATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF FANASIL AND TETRACYCLINE, FOLLOW-UP TREATMENT AND TREATMENT OF CONTACTS. IT ALSO DISTRIBUTED DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS ON TRANSPORTATION OF THE SICK, BURIAL OF THE DEAD, ETC. IT ESTABLISHED A SYSTEM OF WEEKLY REPORTS OF CASES.

LS(C) Q. HAS WHO ASSISTANCE BEEN REQUESTED BY MOH?

ANS. - YES.

(D) Q. WHAT ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN REQUESTED FROM WHO?

ANS. - A LONG LIST AMOUNTING TO 29,331,137 BURUNDI FRANCS WORTH OF PERFUSION EQUIPMENT, PHYSIOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS, DISINFECTANTS AND OTHER THINGS DOWN TO RUBBER GLOVES, SCRUBBING BRUSHES AND BUCKETS.

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(E) Q. HAS WHO RESPONDED TO REQUEST?

ANS. - YES. WHO REDUCED LIST BY HALF AND AGAIN BY HALF AND DELIVERED REMAINING ITEMS.

(F) Q. - WHERE ARE PATIENTS BEING TREATED IF NOT BEING HOSPITALIZED?

ANS. - WE UNDERSTAND THAT PATIENTS PRESENT THEMSELVES AT VARIOUS DISPENSARIES AND HOSPITALS WHERE MOST OF THEM SHOWN AS "ADMISSIONS" GET MEDICATION. ONLY SERIOUS CASES, USUALLY THOSE BROUGHT IN FROM SOME DISTANCE ARE HOSPITALIZED.

(G) 1. - HOW DOES MOH ACCOUNT FOR LOW DEATH RATE?

ANS. - IT CREDITS CONCERTED EFFORT OF HEALTH AND OTHER GOVERNMENT SERVICES, GOVERNORS, COMMUNAL ADMINISTRATORS, ZONE CHIEFS, AND PARTY ORGANIZATION LEADING TO RAPID INTERVENTION AT CENTERS OF INFECTION AS WELL AS THE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN CONDUCTED THROUGH MEDIA, AND GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION, AND TREATMENT OF CONTACTS OF PATIENTS AND CONTROL OF POPULATION MOVEMENT PLUS REPETITION OF ELEMENTARY HYGIENE INSTRUCTIONS - HAND WASHING, ETC.

(H) Q. - DOES MOH HAVE IDEA OF SOURCE AND MODE OF SPREAD?

ANS. - MOH CLAIMS THAT DISEASE WAS ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED FROM TANZANIA, THAT THIS THREAT WAS CURTAILED, BUT DISEASE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REINTRODUCED FROM KIVU IN ZAIRE TO AREA NORTH OF BUJUMBURA AND THEN SPREAD IN IMBO PLAIN REGION NORTH OF BUJUMBURA. MAIN CAUSE OF SPREAD WAS INFECTED WATER SUPPLY. OTHER CAUSES WERE TRAVEL BY PATIENTS FROM ZAIRE SEEKING TREATMENT, AND POSSIBLE TRAVEL BY FOOD AND RINK MERCHANTS CAUSING CONTAMINATED STOCKS.

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(I) Q. - DOES MISSION FEEL STATISTICS BEING REPORTED IN REFTEL VALID FROM MOH?

ANS. - WE HAVE IMPRESSION FROM OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS WHO HAVE OWN NATIONALITY DOCTORS IN THE AREA THAT STATISTICS ARE PRETTY VALID.

3. IN ADDITION TO WHO SUPPLIES, BELGIA GOVERNMENT HAS MADE

IMPORTANT DELIVERIES OF MEDICATIONS AND SUPPLIES, CATHOLIC
RELIEF SERVICES HAS CONTRIBUTED MEDICATIONS, THE FRENCH HAVE
MADE A TOKEN CONTRIBUTION AND THIS EMBASSY HAS APPROVED A SELF-
HELP PROJECT TO FIGHT CHOLERA IN THE RUZIZI PLAIN.
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